

PROJECT HOMELESS

Feisty Nickelsville packs up, but to stay in Ballard for now

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT | With their permit expired, organizers say residents fear arrest, but city officials extended their stay until mid-December while a Wallingford site is readied.



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Michael Haigh, left, and Chris Teel were in the process of moving from Ballard's Nickelsville before its two-year permit expired Friday. Seattle officials, however, have extended the deadline, and City Council members are urging staff to prioritize work on two new sites.

By JONATHAN MARTIN
Seattle Times Project Homeless editor

In a bit of political theater, a city-sanctioned tent encampment in Ballard prepared to break camp and move elsewhere as its permit expired, even though the city of Seattle had said it could stay.

Residents of Ballard Nickelsville began cleaning up the camp on Thursday in preparation for moving to an unspecified location. The camp's two-year permit to occupy the city-owned parcel off Northwest Market Street expired Friday, and camp organizers said they didn't want to risk the consequences of staying.

"We're pretty much breaking the law," said Annie Adan, services coordinator for Ballard Nickelsville. "We're the ones going to get

arrested, not them," she said, referring to the city officials who said they could stay.

The brinkmanship appears to be unnecessary. Seattle City Councilmember Rob Johnson said the city has repeatedly told Nickelsville leaders since August that they could stay in Ballard until a new site was ready.

Late Thursday, city staff posted a permit extension through mid-December at the camp. Will Lemke, a spokesman for the city's homeless response, said Seattle "had no interest in having the camp move twice or being in a situation where the residents had no place to go."

Nonetheless, five members of the Seattle City Council — Mike



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Nickelsville resident Chris Teel looks out from a shelter amid preparations to move. In the background, apartments rise above the encampment, which has been in Ballard for two years.

'Roller-coaster ride' ends in \$1.6M deal with landowner to keep Pacific Crest Trail intact

SECTION AT STEVENS PASS

Forgotten easement meant portion of 2,650-mile route could have been fenced off

By EVAN BUSH
Seattle Times staff reporter

The Pacific Crest Trail Association on Wednesday closed a deal to buy more than 400 acres of land in the Stevens Pass area, preventing

the famous 2,650-mile trail from being severed about 160 miles from the Canadian border.

The PCTA reached a \$1.6 million deal with a private landowner, who the association said had con-

sidered erecting a fence and closing off access to the public.

The Pacific Crest Trail extends from Mexico to Canada along the crests of several mountain ranges, including the Cascades in Washington.

The trail was designated as a National Scenic Trail in 1968 and officially declared finished in 1993. Hikers often travel the length of the

See > TRAIL, A6

Careers, images ruined — why not Trump's?

MISCONDUCT SCANDALS

Amid flood of accusations, Bill Clinton's past also becoming an issue again

By JENNA JOHNSON
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's decision to mock Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., for groping a sleeping woman while posing for a photo has once again made him a central figure in the national discussion about sexual assault, harassment and misconduct — and has again brought attention to past accusations against Trump himself.

As a growing number of prominent men have publicly faced accusations, Trump has been selective in responding, largely on the basis of whether the accused is an ally or foe and focusing relatively little on the alleged victims.

Trump called his own accusers "horrible, horrible liars" and threatened to sue them, while coming to the defense of friends

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Fears about GOP tax-cut plan ripple across towns nationwide

By RENAE MERLE AND PETER JAMISON
The Washington Post

It took the city of Pataskala, Ohio, nine ballot measures before its 15,000 residents agreed to a new 1 percent tax to pay for repairs to its crumbling roads and to buy new police cruisers. The mostly rural community was won over by a century-old hallmark of the tax code: The \$5 million local levy could be deducted from their federal taxes.

"There is a severe sensitivity to more taxes here," said James Nicholson, the city's finance director. "At the end of the day, 'you get a tax break' was the thing that convinced people."

But now, in towns and thriving cities, and in Republican — and

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DISASTER AID: White House seeks cuts to cover relief > A2



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